

Furman Magazine

Volume 57
Issue 1 *Spring* 2014

Article 13

4-1-2014

Scholarships: Partners

Furman University

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Recommended Citation

University, Furman (2014) "Scholarships: Partners," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 57 : Iss. 1 , Article 13.
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol57/iss1/13>

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Partners

Established in 1998 and strengthened during the early stages of the campaign, the Partners Scholarship Program connects donors with the student scholarship recipients they directly support. Emily Sanders, Trustee Emerita, and Dan Sanders H '04, Trustee, joined Partner Scholars Luis Gonzales '12 and Jorge Jimenez-Flores '11, two of the 13 scholars they have supported, during the annual spring Partners Dinner. The Sanders are among 36 partner donor households that supported 498 students, often for multiple years, during the last decade.

A legacy that matters

When Tom Triplitt '76 talks about his dad, you can feel the warmth of decades of memories that made their relationship unforgettable. He has a similar warmth for Furman, first as a student, and now as Alumni Director. So, it's no surprise that Triplitt chose to merge two of his loves to create an enduring legacy.

Your dad had a tough upbringing.

Growing up during the Depression shaped everything about my dad. His father died when he was 16 and the family had to move so his mom could work; she was a teacher. It made my dad really appreciate the sacrifice his mother made for his education.

What prompted you to start a legacy scholarship?

Once he started working, my father started saving so I could go to college, so his grandchildren could go to college, and his great grandchildren. He was never really a wealthy man, but he was frugal and a good investor. When he was 90, an opportunity



Furman is a Triplitt tradition (from top left): baby Elijah; Jonathan Butcher '00; Pearce Triplitt Butcher '02; Tracy Triplitt Alewine; Tom Triplitt '76; Andrea Triplitt Bridgeman '11; Diane Wedgworth Triplitt '78 with Tom's parents Rupert and Katharine Triplitt. Not pictured: Mamie Lambdin '12 and Jay Bridgeman '12.

to start a scholarship together presented itself, and I knew it was the right thing to do.

What was his legacy?

His biggest legacy was the way he treated people. He was fair, generous, and tried to instill a sense of self-worth in everybody he met. When he died at 94, I lost my best friend.

What's your hope for the future?

I would like students who receive our scholarship to know about the legacy my father left. And I hope that my family continues to support this scholarship into perpetuity. My legacy. For him.

#WhyFurmanMatters

Furman has something unquantifiable. Beyond great students and great teachers there's an intangible quality that makes it so exceptional. It helped me find out who I am.

—TOM TRIPLITT '76